

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Before Commissioners:

Robert G. Taub, Acting Chairman;
Nanci E. Langley, Vice Chairman;
Mark Acton; and
Tony Hammond

Winchester Post Office
Winchester, IL

Docket No. A2016-2

NOTICE AND ORDER ACCEPTING APPEAL AND
ESTABLISHING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

(Issued May 27, 2016)

Notice is hereby given that, on May 25, 2016, the Commission posted an Appeal on Closing and Request for Suspension of Closing Pending Review regarding the Postal Service's planned closing of operations at the Winchester Post Office in Winchester, Illinois.¹ The Petition was filed on behalf of the City of Winchester (Petitioner) by John D. Coonrod, attorney for Petitioner.

The Petition includes a May 11, 2016 letter from the Postal Service stating that due to expiration of the lease on the Winchester Main Post Office building, postal services would be temporarily suspended effective May 21, 2016, at the Winchester Post Office until a permanent alternate location within the Winchester community is

¹ See Appeal on Closing and Request for Suspension of Closing Pending Review (Petition), May 25, 2016.

located. Petition, Addendum A. Temporary service for “PO Box customers, Rural and City Delivery and Retail Services” will be available 19 miles away at the Jacksonville, Illinois Post Office. *Id.* Petitioner requests the Commission to review the Postal Service’s decision to suspend service at the Winchester Post Office and to direct the Postal Service to cease its efforts to close down operations at the Winchester Post Office pending disposition of Petitioner’s appeal. Petition at 6.

The Commission hereby institutes a proceeding under 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(5) and establishes Docket No. A2016-2 to consider the Petitioner’s appeal. Petitioner may further explain its position with supplemental information or facts. Petitioner may file a Participant Statement on PRC Form 61 or a brief with the Commission no later than June 27, 2016.

Request for suspension pending Commission review. The Commission’s rules provide that the Postal Service shall file an answer within 10 days after an application for suspension pending the outcome of an appeal. See 39 C.F.R. § 3025.30(b).

Availability; website posting. The Commission has posted the appeal and supporting material on its website at <http://www.prc.gov>. Additional filings in this case and participants’ submissions will also be posted on the website, if provided in electronic format or amenable to conversion, and not subject to a valid protective order. Information on how to use the Commission’s website is available online or by contacting the Commission’s webmaster via telephone at 202-789-6873 or via electronic mail at prc-webmaster@prc.gov.

The appeal and all related documents are also available for public inspection in the Commission’s docket section. Docket section hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, except on Federal government holidays. Docket section personnel may be contacted via electronic mail at prc-dockets@prc.gov or via telephone at 202-789-6846.

Filing of documents. All Postal Service filings in this case shall be made using the Internet (Filing Online) pursuant to Commission rules 9(a) and 10(a). See 39 C.F.R. §§ 3001.9(a) and 3001.10(a). Other participants may also use Filing Online.

Instructions for obtaining an account to file documents online may be obtained on the Commission's website, <http://www.prc.gov>, or by contacting the Commission's docket section at prc-dockets@prc.gov or via telephone at 202-789-6846.

The Commission reserves the right to redact personal information that may infringe on an individual's privacy rights from documents filed in this proceeding.

Participation by others. Persons other than Petitioner and the Postal Service wishing to be heard in this matter may submit comments. See 39 C.F.R. § 3025.14. Initial comments supporting a remand of this case are to be filed on or before June 27, 2016. This and other deadlines are set out in the attached Procedural Schedule. See 39 C.F.R. §§ 3025.41 through 3025.43.

Further procedures. By statute, the Commission is required to issue its decision within 120 days from the date it receives the appeal. See 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(5). A Procedural Schedule has been developed to accommodate this statutory deadline. In the interest of expedition, the Commission may request the Postal Service or other participants to submit information or memoranda of law on any appropriate issue. **If any motions are filed by the Postal Service, responses are due 10 days after any such motion is filed.** See 39 C.F.R. § 3025.2(c).

It is ordered:

1. The Postal Service shall file the applicable Administrative Record regarding this appeal no later than June 6, 2016.
2. Any responsive pleading by the Postal Service to this Notice is due no later than June 6, 2016.
3. The Procedural Schedule listed below is hereby adopted.

4. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. § 505, Patricia A. Gallagher is designated as officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the interests of the general public.

By the Commission.

Ruth Ann Abrams
Acting Secretary

PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

May 25, 2016	Filing of Appeal
June 6, 2016	Deadline for the Postal Service to file the applicable Administrative Record in this appeal (see 39 C.F.R. § 3025.21)
June 6, 2016	Deadline for the Postal Service to file any responsive pleading (see 39 C.F.R. § 3025.30(b))
June 27, 2016	Deadline for Petitioner's Form 61 or initial brief in support of the petition (see 39 C.F.R. § 3025.41)
July 11, 2016	Deadline for answering brief in support of the Postal Service (see 39 C.F.R. § 3025.42)
July 21, 2016	Deadline for reply briefs in response to answering briefs (see 39 C.F.R. § 3025.43)
September 22, 2016	Expiration of the Commission's 120-day decisional schedule (see 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(5))